Message Text

MRN: 1978MANAGU002681 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /040 W

-----120090 082030Z /66

R 072110Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6796
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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SAN SALVADOR ALSO FOR AGR ATT

8. THE EXPANSION OF STANDARD FRUIT'S BANANA OPERATIONS IN NICARAGUA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BENEFIT NICARAGUA'S ECONOMY. IN 1977, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DATA, NICARAGUA EXPORTED 5.2 MILLION BOXES OF BANANAS, WORTH \$4 MILLION. THE EXPORT OF BANANAS HELPS TO FURTHER NICARAGUAN EFFORTS AT PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION AND DECREASED DEPENDENCY ON A FEW BASIC EXPORT COMMODITIES, SUCH AS COFFEE, COTTON AND SUGAR. BANANAS RANK ABOUT NINTH IN VALUE AMONG NICARAGUA'S AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS THAT BANANAS PROVIDE YEAR-ROUND EMPLOYMENT, AND NOT JUST SEASONAL, AS IS THE CASE WITH COTTON AND COFFEE, FOR EXAMPLE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT STANDARD PLANS TO CONTINUE INCREASING ITS BANANA PRODUCTION IN NICARAGUA UNTIL IT CAN SUPPLY ALL OF ITS WEST COAST U.S. MARKET FROM THIS COUNTRY. ECUADOR AND NICARAGUA ARE CURRENTLY THE JOINT SUPPLIERS FOR THAT MARKET.

9. REF. MR. COLE'S APRIL 7 LETTER TO STANDARD FRUIT, PLEASE NOTE THAT NICARAGUA'S MINISTER OF ECONOMY IS NOW ROGER BLANDON. HE TOOK OVER FROM MARTINEZ IN ABOUT JANUARY 1978. THE VICE MINISTER OF ECONOMY, WHO SOMETIMES SERVES AS ACTING MINISTER IN BLANDON'S ABSENCE, IS DR. JAIME FERNANDEZ.
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10. EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PROPOSED STANDARD FRUIT CO.INVESTMENT AS DESIRED. SOLAUN

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Message Attributes

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